

Application No. 10/829,262
Amendment dated December 19, 2005
After Final Office Action of September 19, 2005

Docket No.: 0941-0950PUS1

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 13 and 14 have been amended, and claims 2 and 10-12 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sato, U.S. Patent 6,885,222. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 2-8 and 12-19 to contain allowable subject matter. Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but simply to expedite prosecution of this application, it is noted that the limitations of objected-to but allowable claim 2 have been incorporated into independent claim 1, and the limitations of objected-to but allowable claims 10-12 have been incorporated into independent claim 9. Accordingly, all claims should now automatically be in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

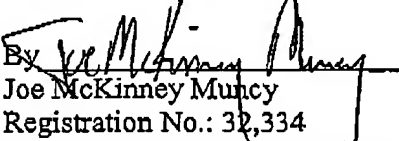
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: December 19, 2005

Respectfully submitted

By 
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